

June 1, 1931.

Mr. C. A. Thompson,
Lapoint, Utah.

Dear Sir:

RE: UINTAH DIST.

I have your letter of May 29 and am very sorry to learn that the situation is so unsatisfactory.

The laws of Utah make the State Engineer the administrator of the waters of the state of Utah and an Act of Congress has also recognized this situation as far as the Indian rights are concerned in the Uintah Basin. Unfortunately the Indian Service takes the opposite view of the matter and by withholding payment for service of a water commissioner have been able to create a situation which eliminates the State Engineer for the present.

I have been much concerned over the situation but have feared to take a very active part because if litigation was started the Indian Service is in a position to carry the matter up to the Supreme Court if necessary while the Settlers are hardly in a position, financially, to make much of a fight.

I understand that Mr. B. O. Colton, Jr., is looking after the distribution under some kind of an agreement between the Indian Service and Settlers and am referring your letter to him for any suggestion which he may be able to give.

Yours very truly,

State Engineer.

GMB/E